

What is being done to control Nonpoint Source Pollution?

The Walker River Paiute Tribe Water Resources Department is currently implementing a Nonpoint Source Management Program. Past Work has included a Wellhead Protection Plan, which identified the above-ground areas contributing water to drinking wells and the possible nonpoint sources of pollution that could enter the ground from these areas and could degrade well water quality. Results showed Tribal well water resources have not been impacted by nonpoint sources of pollution.

Walker River and Weber Reservoir water quality is currently being assessed. Bi-monthly samples are collected from these waters and analyzed by certified laboratories. Laboratory results will be used to determine if surface waters within the Reservation meet state water quality standards. Future efforts will include reducing the effects of nonpoint source pollution if current studies indicate water quality within the Reservation has been impaired.



What can you do to help prevent Nonpoint Source Pollution?

- Use low phosphate and phosphate-free detergents
- Use water-based products
- Limit the use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Household cleaners, grease, and oil should not be flushed down drains or washed down the street, where they can result in major water quality problems. One quart of motor oil can contaminate up to two million gallons of drinking water!
- Properly manage septic systems, including annual inspections and maintenance every 3-5 years
- Report all chemical and oil spills

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For more information about the Nonpoint Source Pollution Program, please contact Mr. Roy Begay at the Walker River Paiute Tribe Water Resources Department or visit the EPA on the World Wide Web
<http://www.epa.gov>

WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE



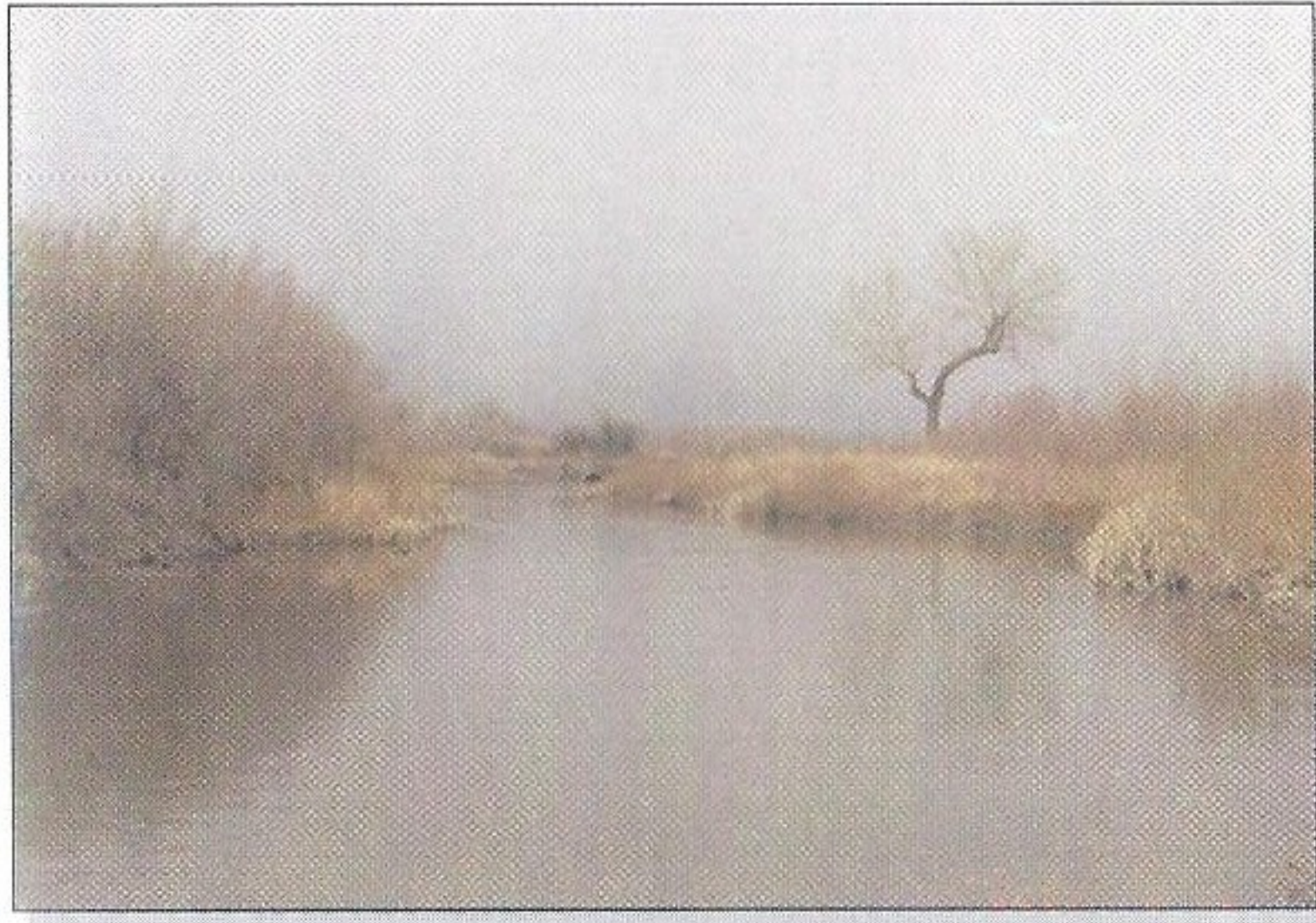
NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Funded by the Environmental Protection Agency

What is the Nonpoint Source Management Program?

The United States Congress enacted Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act in 1987, establishing a national program to control nonpoint sources of water pollution. The program provides states, territories and tribes with grants to implement nonpoint source pollution controls to minimize or eliminate nonpoint source pollution.

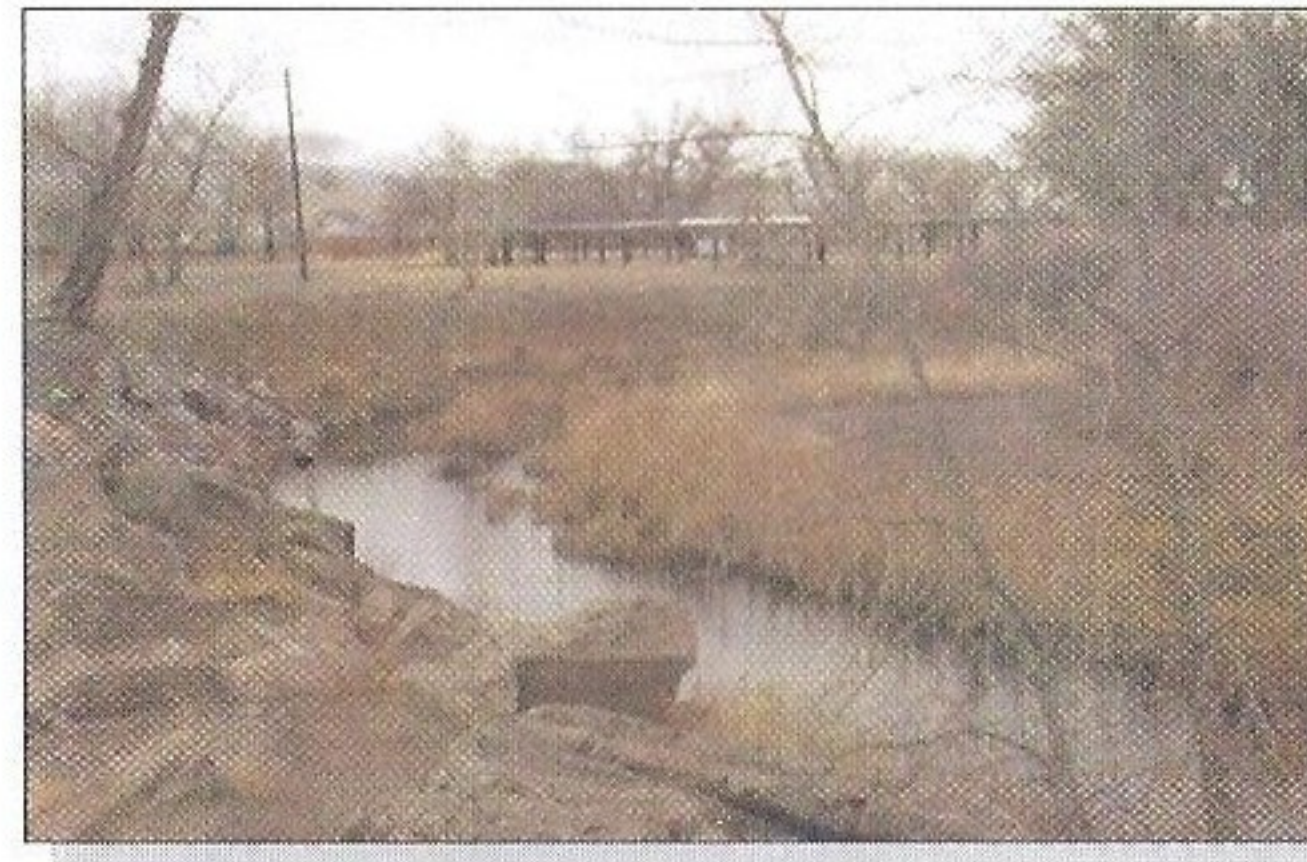


What is Nonpoint Source Pollution?

Nonpoint source pollution occurs when rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation runs over the land or through the ground, picks up natural and human-made pollutants, and deposits them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters, or introduces them into underground sources of drinking water. Pollutants include:

- Fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from agricultural lands
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff
- Sediment from croplands and eroding streambanks
- Salt from irrigation practices
- Acid drainage from abandoned mines
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems

Approximately 36% of the nation's surveyed river miles and 37% of its surveyed lake acreage are not safe for basic uses such as swimming or fishing. States, territories and tribes estimate that at least half of these impairments are caused by nonpoint source pollution.

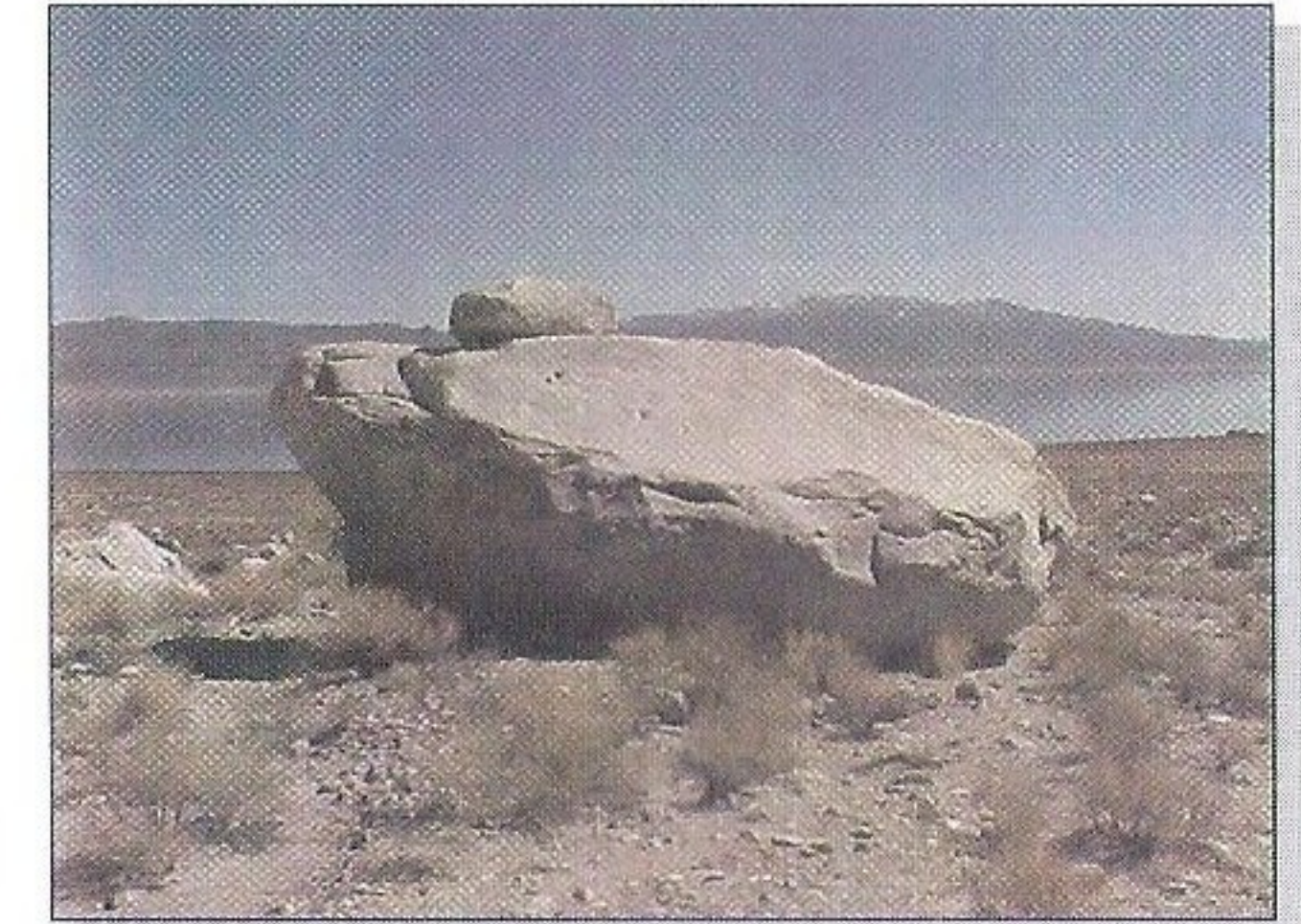


What are the effects of Nonpoint Sources of Pollution?

Nonpoint source pollution is the leading cause of water quality problems. The effects of nonpoint source pollutants on specific waters vary, but it is known that these pollutants have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries and wildlife.

Why are Nonpoint Sources of Pollution important to the Walker River Paiute Tribe?

Groundwater and water from the Walker River are precious resources for the Walker River Paiute Tribe. Groundwater is pumped from two wells and provides the drinking and household water for the town of Schurz.



Walker River water is used for fishing, swimming, irrigation, and stock watering on the Reservation. Upstream of the Reservation, Walker River water is heavily diverted for irrigation and then returned to the river via drains. Reducing or eliminating nonpoint sources of pollution will preserve the beneficial uses of Reservation waters.

